

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR LOUIS H. ROTHENSTEIN US Army, Retired



CSM Louis Rothenstein enlisted in the Regular Army on 21 February 1956. Following basic and advanced individual training as an infantryman at Fort Ord, he was assigned to Europe where he performed administrative and other duties in France and Turkey, and deployed to Lebanon in November 1958 during the Middle East crisis. He returned to Continental Army Command Headquarters in 1960 as an administrative assistant.

In 1961, CSM Rothenstein was assigned to the Korean Military Advisory Group where he learned aerial observation, photography, and terrain analysis. He collected valuable biographic information on Korean officials and submitted over 50 field corrections to existing Southeast Asian maps.

From 1963 to 1966, he served as an Intelligence Analyst, G2 Section, Berlin Brigade, where he conducted field tests on collection equipment that were later adopted for use. In this assignment, he also planned and conducted air and ground reconnaissance operations and opened a major operating post/listening post for the brigade.

Following a tour in Vietnam as an Advisor and Intelligence Team Sergeant, CSM Rothenstein joined the 66th MI Group in Germany as an Analyst where he was instrumental in updating numerous order of battle books. He also converted manual files to an automated data processing system, and caused the publication of two identification handbooks. In July 1969, he went back to Vietnam with the 525th MI Group, participated in dangerous air reconnaissance missions near the Cambodian border and later served as a First Sergeant.

From 1970 to 1972, CSM Rothenstein was Advisor to Reserve units in California. In September 1972, he served with the Korean Support Command in Security, Plans and Operations in Taegu working as an Intelligence Sergeant and Mobility Intelligence NCO. Upon his return to the US in 1973, CSM Rothenstein served as a First Sergeant for the 1st Battalion at Fort Huachuca, after which he served with the 25th Infantry Division Support Command, ultimately as the G2 Sergeant Major.

From 1978 to 1981 CSM Rothenstein attended and then stayed on as an Instructor at the Sergeants Major Academy, during which time he was promoted to Command Sergeant Major. In July 1981, he went back overseas as Command Sergeant Major of the 102nd MI Battalion (Combat Electronic Warfare and Intelligence [CEWI]) in Korea. In August 1982, he was appointed first Command Sergeant Major, 513th MI Group, Fort Meade, Maryland. CSM Rothenstein's distinguished career culminated as command Sergeant Major, US Army Communications and Electronics Command at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, where he provided input for the improvement of Signals Intelligence and Electronic Warfare equipment deployed worldwide. He retired in February 1986.

CSM Rothenstein was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1990 and served as the Honorary Sergeant Major of the Corps from 1990 to 1994. He is currently a Distinguished Member of the Corps.